

From glowbugs@theporch.com Mon Dec 4 20:48:40 1995
Return-Path: glowbugs@theporch.com
Received: from uro (localhost.theporch.com [127.0.0.1]) by uro.theporch.com
(8.7.3/AUX-3.1.1) with SMTP id UAA17524; Mon, 4 Dec 1995 20:44:22 -0600 (CST)
Date: Mon, 4 Dec 1995 20:44:22 -0600 (CST)
Message-Id: <199512050244.UAA17524@uro.theporch.com>
Errors-To: ws4s@midtenn.net
Reply-To: glowbugs@theporch.com
Originator: glowbugs@theporch.com
Sender: glowbugs@theporch.com
Precedence: bulk
From: glowbugs@theporch.com
To: Multiple recipients of list <glowbugs@theporch.com>
Subject: GLOWBUGS digest 38
X-Listprocessor-Version: 6.0c -- ListProcessor by Anastasios Kotsikonas
X-Comment: Please send list server requests to listproc@theporch.com
Status: 0

GLOWBUGS Digest 38

Topics covered in this issue include:

- 1) A Good Home
by joe@westonia.com (Joseph Cooper)
- 2) Re: 6146 transmitter
by Bruce Robertson <brucerob@epas.utoronto.ca>
- 3) Re: 6146 transmitter
by "Tony Stalls (K4KY0)" <j38@clark.net>
- 4) Re: 6146 transmitter
by mjsilva@ix.netcom.com (michael silva)
- 5) Coil forms and 2E24s...
by ralph.hartwell@emachine.com (Ralph Hartwell)
- 6) Re: A Good Home
by "Tony Stalls (K4KY0)" <j38@clark.net>
- 7) Re: A Good Home
by Steve Ellington <n4lq@iglou.com>
- 8) Identifying Audio Stage Transformers
by EricNess@aol.com
- 9) Re: A Good Home
by "Tony Stalls (K4KY0)" <j38@clark.net>
- 10) Re: 6146 transmitter
by hrsil@flinet.com (Henry Silvia)

Date: Sun, 3 Dec 95 22:37 EST
From: joe@westonia.com (Joseph Cooper)
To: glowbugs@theporch.com

Subject: A Good Home
Message-ID: <m0tMRiB-000iAjC@gpu2.westonia.com>

This is a bit off topic, but it is something that has been becoming a concern to me and I wanted to see if any of you out there felt the same way. I think that given the interests of the group there may be an interest here.

I have become increasingly aware of the increasing number of estate sales that have been happening lately as many of our ranks become 'silent keys'. I don't have numbers, but I have a feeling that a significant number of hams in North America got their licences in the 1940's and 1950's and are now into their 60's and 70's in age.

Now my point here is this:

I have had the occasion to make two recent purchases of equipment from two estate sales. The equipment in question were older rigs that had been very well taken care of and had afforded the owners many hours of pleasure. The important point here was that families did not want to have the equipment sit and do nothing, but wanted to sell it in order to keep it in use. In general the amount being asked for was really only a token amount as they did not want to 'profit' from the sale. The key here in both cases the reason why I was able to purchase the equipment was that I promised to give the equipment a 'good home', that is that I would treat the equipment with the same respect as the previous owner and not just use it for parts for the junk box. This made the family feel better about what they were doing.

Frankly I have seen some emails from people gloating over the 'great deal' that they got from some estate sale. I'll fully accept anyone out there saying that I'm being over sensitive on this, but somehow I don't think so.

The other day I was thinking about an old Laffette regen SW kit called a 'Span Master' that me and my father had built back in 1961. It had got lost over time and frankly I was sorry to have had that happen. I sent out an email asking for info and got back a very nice response from a fellow who had also built one at the same time and still had it (and still working). He will probably keep that old kit for the rest of his life as part of his personal history.

Anyway, all of this is to say that I have been wondering about how to work this into something worth while. It is obvious that for some their ham radio equipment is more than a collection of radio parts, but comes part of their life. In many cases the family has come to associate those radios (even if they do not understand them) as part of their partner's personality and happiness.

What do you fellows think of this:

A 'good home' program where the family who is trying to dispose of a 'silent key's' equipment can be assured that the equipment will be used 'properly' and 'productively' in the way that would reflect well on the previous owner. This could be simply a set of ideals layed out and understood, and agreed upon by the person purchasing the equipment. Frankly, given our hobbies love for certificates, why not have some ham group take up the cause and sponsor it.

Personally I would not mind even having a small sticker that could be placed on the back of the unit saying 'This is a 'good home' radio previously owned by (name and dates). The idea would be that if you encountered it later you would be 'encouraged' to keep it restored and in good order. The benefit would be the preservation of our heritage and a show of fraternal respect for our members.

Anyway, am I off base here ? If not and if it appears to be a good idea I'll start writting letters to the different ham mags and organizations and try and get broad support for it.

=====

* Joseph Cooper-VE3FMQ QTH-East York-near Toronto Ontario Canada *

* Interests are:-Lowfer/VLF/BCB Radio-Woodworking-Steam Railroads *

* -Nikola Tesla-Antique Radios-Crystal Radios-Travel-Burmese Cats *

* FAX (416) 423-7782 9:00pm to 5:00pm EDST Monday To Friday Only *

=====

Date: Sun, 3 Dec 1995 23:31:50 -0500 (EST)
From: Bruce Robertson <brucerob@epas.utoronto.ca>
To: rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu
Subject: Re: 6146 transmitter
Message-ID: <Pine.SGI.3.91.951203232951.17008D-100000@blues.epas.utoronto.ca>

> > I've finally found the tube project for my tastes. Its from the
> > 1969 Arrl manual. One tube transmitter using a 6146. I hope to get the
> > socket and anode cap from AES here within the week so be forewarned.....
> > More to come.....

Does the Manual have a reference to a QST article from which the design was borrowed? I have access to old QSTs, but not to the manuals. (Except my 1953 and 1993 copies.)

73, VE3UWL

Bruce G. Robertson Dept. of Classics, U. of T.

Date: Sun, 3 Dec 1995 23:50:21 -0500 (EST)
From: "Tony Stalls (K4KY0)" <j38@clark.net>
To: Bruce Robertson <brucerob@epas.utoronto.ca>
Subject: Re: 6146 transmitter
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.91.951203234809.6215D-100000@clark.net>

On Sun, 3 Dec 1995, Bruce Robertson wrote:

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> > > socket and anode cap from AES here within the week so be forewarned.....
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> Does the Manual have a reference to a QST article from which the design
> was borrowed? I have access to old QSTs, but not to the manuals. (Except
> my 1953 and 1993 copies.)

My 1957 ARRL Handbook makes reference to QST for August 1955.

73,
Tony
K4KY0
j38@clark.net

Date: Sun, 3 Dec 1995 21:07:13 -0800
From: mjsilva@ix.netcom.com (michael silva)
To: glowbugs@theporch.com
Subject: Re: 6146 transmitter
Message-ID: <199512040507.VAA15503@ix9.ix.netcom.com>

Tony, K4KY0, wrote:

>> >.... One tube transmitter using a 6146.

>> Does the Manual have a reference to a QST article from which the
>>design was borrowed?

>My 1957 ARRL Handbook makes reference to QST for August 1955.

There's also one in the December 1958 issue.

73,
Mike, KK6GM

Date: Sun, 3 Dec 1995 20:01:00 GMT
From: ralph.hartwell@emachine.com (Ralph Hartwell)
To: glowbugs@theporch.com
Subject: Coil forms and 2E24s...
Message-ID: <9512031605095411@emachine.com>

M>First (in reverse order), has anybody done anything with those \$1 2E24s
M>that we all bought last summer? I must admit I've never designed
M>around a filament tube before, so I haven't done anything with mine.

I used to run a surplus military rig as a 2 Meter repeater, and it used a pair of 2E24's in push-pull. With a bit of tweaking, forced air cooling and finger crossing, I was able to get close to 80 watts into the pair of them, but I think that's pushing them. I would get about 500 hours or so life out of them and then they would lose emission. With 2E26's, I could get a good 120 watts input with them. Generally however, I'd suggest being a bit more conservative. <G>

M>Do you just always pick circuits that put the filament at RF ground, or M>is there any benefit to actually isolating the filament with chokes?

They are quite stable with the filaments at RF ground.

M>Next, I've been thinking about plug-in coil forms, and I don't want to M>pay AES prices for them. I went out in the garage and got a piece of M>1" PVC pipe (sch 40?) and stuck it in the microwave for a minute and it M>came out cool as the proverbial cucumber. This would make a fine coil M>form mounted to the base of a defunct tube (or buy the bases from AES). M>Is there any reason this shouldn't work? Are there other simple tests M>I can perform on the material?

The white PVC pipe seems to work OK, but from my tests, the grey stuff appears to have higher losses. I melted a test coil form made out of the grey PVC while running 500 watts at 21 MHz even though the wire was fairly cool. I don't know what the loss tangent of the material is, but I suspect it's pretty low at most of the HF freqs where you are likely to use the PVC as a coil form. I've made up several loading could

for various loaded dipole HF antennas over the past few years and they have all worked fine. I haven't noticed any deterioration of the material after several years of high power use. You can also purchase Polystyrene tube in various sizes and thicknesses from such suppliers as Cadillac Plastic. Don't forget those orange pill bottles from the local pharmacy, they work pretty well, but are a bit flexible compared to PVC.

Ralph W5JGV

, QMPro 1.53 , Break up a relationship - buy a computer!!

Date: Mon, 4 Dec 1995 09:47:21 -0500 (EST)
From: "Tony Stalls (K4KY0)" <j38@clark.net>
To: Joseph Cooper <joe@westonia.com>
Subject: Re: A Good Home
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.91.951204084907.1912A-100000@clark.net>

Joseph,

I've told this story before, so I'll just make reference to the local ham who pounced on the widow of a local ham a few years back and offered the widow \$300 (quoting the widow) "to take this stuff off your hands". The "stuff" included a Ten Tech Omni-D, and Atlas 210-X, a late model Kenwood 2 meter rig, a Hammarlund HQ-160, a tower/rotator/TA-33, and a good number of other good items. Two years afterwards, a used equipment dealer offered about \$2000 for the lot with a clear explanation that he was a professional dealer and was offering her wholesale. Of course this kind of thing isn't restricted to amateur equipment as evidenced by a recent ham's estate sale where the employee of a non-profit (non-ham) organization allegedly took advantage of the situation by setting aside the appraisals and classifying some valuable art objects as (typically) "picture", "rug", etc. and bought the items herself at a tiny fraction of the appraised value.

As vice president and now president of the Vic Clark Chapter of the QCWA, I have been directly involved with the Foundation for Amateur Radio's "Survivor's Assistance Program" to prevent the vultures from "taking stuff of widows' hands". Even so, there are those who try to shortstop the process by getting to the widow first. The "\$300" guy was one of those people.

That being said, there are those families who could care less. Someone told of coming on a site where the family had put out a dumpster and they found it full of apparently very nice vintage gear. There are also situations where it is necessary to divest the estate ASAP, which was the

case with Stu Meyer's (W2GHK) estate as he died without a will and Virginia's law required it. There were some real bargains, but FAR Survivor Assistance Program people were there and saw to it that items were properly identified and appraised.

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>

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> Anyway, am I off base here ? If not and if it appears to be a good idea I'll start writting letters to the different ham mags and organizations and try > and get broad support for it.

I don't think you're off base at all. One of the things I look for in vintage gear is some evidence of who owned it before. I've contacted previous owners before, although with the vanity call signs coming, that will be more difficult, and have been pleasantly surprised to have gotten some good information back. To me it's nice to know that a piece of gear had given pleasure to another member of the fraternity.

To me, people are what make amateur radio the wonderful hobby that it is and the toys we all love are just a means of knowing them. We do all these things like restoring vintage gear, homebrewing, competing in contests, or whatever, and get to know one another as people with varied interests. I have more lifetime friends who I've gotten to know through amateur radio than by any other means. That alone has made it all worthwhile.

Getting to your specific point, I think it's a great idea and believe that the Foundation for Amateur Radio would be a good organization to write to. The ham magazines and ARRL are too big and to profit oriented (he said cynically <g>) to take up anything like that. FAR is a smaller national organization that is known for its service to the whole amateur community. For example, among the things they've done recently, they awarded (as I recall) 55 scholarships. Write to FAR president Chuck Sommer, N40SD. (I don't have his address handy, but I'm sure it's available in the

callbook.)

Good for you!

73,
Tony
K4KY0
j38@clark.net

Date: Mon, 4 Dec 1995 11:19:14 -0500 (EST)
From: Steve Ellington <n4lq@iglou.com>
To: Joseph Cooper <joe@westonia.com>
Subject: Re: A Good Home
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.91.951204110753.509B-100000@iglou>

> Anyway, all of this is to say that I have been wondering about how to work
> this into something worth while. It is obvious that for some their ham radio
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I enjoy Ham Radio, working on old BA's etc. but I wouldn't want my wife
to be burdened with the thought that this junk is "part of my life". You
talk as if these radios are almost human. A ham should never idolize his
hobby or equipment. I've told my xyl to sell the stuff to the highest
bidder and let it go. To attach a sticker on a radio and expect someone
to eternally honor, love and care for it is asking too much. If we start
this, next thing you know, xyls will want stickers on their toasters,
hair dryer and 200 pairs of shoes.

You had to ask.

Steve Ellington N4LQ@IGLOU.COM Louisville, Ky

Date: Mon, 4 Dec 1995 16:35:21 -0500
From: EricNess@aol.com
To: glowbugs@theporch.com
Subject: Identifying Audio Stage Transformers
Message-ID: <951204163517_44132151@emout05.mail.aol.com>

This weekend while visiting the local surplus outlet I found a box full of what look to be audio output transformers. The price was right and so I took a chance and bought a few.

The transformers were made by an outfit called Webcor and the newspaper wrapping the transformers is dated 1958. The winding that appears to be primary is centertapped has an inductance of 7.4 H. There are two secondaries, one of which is centertapped, which have inductances of 8.4 mH and 7.4 mH respectively. Using an audio oscillator, I put a 10 Vp-p signal on the primary and measured .3 Vp-p and .28 Vp-p on the secondaries. Doing the math this works out to a turns ratio of 33 and 36 to 1.

Never having designed a tube output stage before, I would like to ask a few questions of the group.

1. Before putting this transformer into service, are there any other parameters I need to consider? Based on the turns ratio (33:1) it looks like this transformer would match a 8.9 K ohm load to an 8 ohm speaker.

2. Why would there be two secondary windings with nearly the same turn ratio? The only thing I can imagine is that the nontapped winding is for the speaker and the tapped winding is for a feedback network.

I would like to use one of these transformers in my next receiver if it will work. I've grown tired of being leashed to a radio via the headphone cord.

Hi Hi

73's, Eric WD6DGX

Date: Mon, 4 Dec 1995 13:07:42 -0500 (EST)
From: "Tony Stalls (K4KY0)" <j38@clark.net>
To: Steve Ellington <n4lq@iglou.com>
Subject: Re: A Good Home
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.91.951204115636.22875C-100000@clark.net>

On Mon, 4 Dec 1995, Steve Ellington wrote:

> I enjoy Ham Radio, working on old BA's etc. but I wouldn't want my wife
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> to eternally honor, love and care for it is asking too much. If we start

> this, next thing you know, xyls will want stickers on their toasters,
> hair dryer and 200 pairs of shoes.
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> You had to ask.

Steve,

I have to take issue with you on this. We're not talking about toasters, hair driers, or shoes here. We're talking about Johnson Viking, Collins, Hammarlund, National, and any number of other marques that a lot of us consider classics and worth preserving. Personalizing it makes it all the better.

Consider the BC-375 tuning unit that I found a B-24G tail number stenciled on it. Dave Stinson researched it and found that it was assigned to a WW2 Navy patrol bomber. That made it a lot more interesting than its just being another of thousands of TU-(*) tuning units. It had a history and maybe knowing where a Hammarlund HQ-whatever had been would make it a lot more interesting. I know that I got a kick of opening up an HQ-120 and finding that several previous owners had written their calls inside.

However, I doubt that the Japanese appliance radios and belt-toys with their built-in obsolescence will garner as much appreciation. Anyway, attitudes about amateur radio being a fraternity are changing too, so any such preservation plan will probably go by the boards before long, especially with all the "instant old-timers" that will be created by the vanity call sign fiasco.

Now, that being said, after I've joined the legion of SK's, what do I care what happens to all this stuff? However, I would like to think that someone appreciates my admiration of these things enough to see that the time and effort I've put forth to care for them after I'm gone is continued. I would prefer to think that it's not going to end up just being hamfest fodder.

I've decided that rather than sell to the highest bidder, I would rather give the stuff away if I know the recipient will care as much about the gizmo or whatever as much as I do. When and if I get around to making a will, the amateur gear is going to be in there so that at least I'll know the first stop will be to a good home. There won't a ham radio estate sale at this QTH. The toaster and hair drier will be up for grabs though.

Anyway Steve, I'm not suggesting that there's anything wrong with your perspective. It's just that mine, Joseph's, and probably some others is different. Nobody is saying that anyone has to participate either.

73,
Tony

K4KY0

Date: Mon, 4 Dec 1995 19:03:59 -0500
From: hrsil@flinet.com (Henry Silvia)
To: glowbugs@theporch.com
Subject: Re: 6146 transmitter
Message-ID: <199512050003.TAA18574@ns1.flinet.com>

>To: brucerob@epas.utoronto.ca
>From: hrsil@flinet.com (Henry Silvia)
>Subject: Re: 6146 transmitter
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>>
>>73, VE3UWL
>>
>>Bruce G. Robertson Dept. of Classics, U. of T.
>>
>>
>
>Bruce, I could not find any references to QST in the manual but I'll
happily pass on any information that I find on this trans.

End of GLOWBUGS Digest 38
